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**Via Federal Express:**

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Rice University  
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Texas State University System  
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University of Texas System  
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Attn: Dona Cornell, General Counsel  
311 Ezekiel Cullen Building  
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**Re: Daniel Savala and Chi Alpha Campus Ministries**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please allow me to introduce myself and our law firm as counsel for [REDACTED] and certain adult male victims of registered sex offender Daniel Savala.

**Chi Alpha Ministries**

At each of your respective institutions and their several campuses, Chi Alpha Ministries has a fairly robust campus presence as a student organization. Chi Alpha Ministries is an extension of the Assemblies of God denomination whose purpose is to serve “college-aged men and women

who are at once wrestling to become who they are (through school or work or life experience) and to connect with God.”<sup>1</sup> Some of these local expressions of Chi Alpha enjoy a quite popular student following.<sup>2</sup>

### **Daniel Savala**

Chi Alpha has a relationship on multiple campuses with a man named Daniel Savala (DOB 3/4/1956). Mr. Savala is a former traveling youth minister. He is also a convicted sex offender. Savala was indicted in 2012 for eleven counts of continuous sexual contact and sexual abuse of a minor child in Ketchikan, Alaska. Savala pleaded guilty to third degree sexual abuse of a minor and was convicted in October 2012. Savala is currently subject to sex offender registration requirements as a result of this conviction and currently resides at [REDACTED] Houston, Texas 77023.<sup>3</sup>

### **Daniel Savala’s Involvement with Chi Alpha**

Over a 30+ year association with Chi Alpha Ministries, Savala has had access to many college-age men he has groomed and sexually abused. In 1997, Savala attempted to abuse [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at Sam Houston State University. Savala meets these vulnerable, young men through Chi Alpha in the capacity of spiritual mentor with the approval of Chi Alpha leadership. Savala’s influence in the organization is manifold. Savala is still active in Chi Alpha, primarily at Texas A&M University. As recently as 2019, Savala participated in a leadership retreat for Chi Alpha at Texas A&M.

Today, Sam Houston State University’s Chi Alpha chapter’s website still bears a quote from Savala:

*“We must never underestimate the potential of youth. Throughout history God has called the young to rise up and change the world through the gospel.”*  
– Daniel Savala

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<sup>1</sup> <https://chialpha.com/about/our-story/#who-we-are>

<sup>2</sup> <https://xacollegestation.com/>; <https://ricechialpha.com/>; <https://www.shsu-xa.com/>; <https://www.sachialpha.com/>; <http://xacorpus.com/>; <https://www.xavalley.com/>; <http://www.uhxa.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://publicsite.dps.texas.gov/SexOffenderRegistry/Search/Rapsheet?Sid=50239684>

In recent years, leadership and students in Chi Alpha at multiple campuses have made trips to Savala's house, and Savala has interacted with students over a very long period of time under the approval of Chi Alpha campus and regional leadership. Some students refer to him as "Uncle Daniel," and Savala still appears in photographs on various students' and Chi Alpha leaders' social media pages. To our understanding, Savala lives or has lived with up to four interns with the University of Houston at his apartment. Additionally, the current Rice University Chi Alpha home is across the street from Savala's residence.

### **Sexual Abuse on Campus**

"C" was a student at Sam Houston State University from 2006 to 2008 and was a Chi Alpha small group leader for three years. C was directed to Savala for spiritual guidance at Savala's home in 2009 by Chi Alpha. Savala sexually abused C on two occasions that year.

"S" was a student at Sam Houston State University from 2009 to 2015. S was introduced to Savala through his small group leader, who promoted Savala as a holy and godly man. S was told that Savala was the reason for Chi Alpha's success. Savala started a relationship with S, talking about spiritual things, which eventually became more personal things. Savala let him know that Christian brothers could trust each other and that it was okay to be naked in front of each other. Savala began to touch S and said, "This isn't gay or wrong to do this stuff; we have freedom in Christ to do this to each other." This eventually led to more sexual contact, shame, and concealment. When S told his friend about the abuse, Sam Houston State University informed the leaders of Chi Alpha not to bring Savala on campus or go to his home.

### **Savala's Sex Offender Status Known to Chi Alpha**

Since 2012, Savala's background as a sex offender is known to Chi Alpha Ministries and the Assemblies of God denomination.

My clients have raised this issue with the Assemblies of God denomination and Chi Alpha Ministries' North Texas District representative, Eli Gautreaux, but to no avail. Gautreaux and his wife planted Chi Alpha at Sam Houston State University. Savala's sex offender status was known to Gautreaux from 2012 on, as Gautreaux was personally involved in seeking letter-writing support for sentencing leniency in Savala's case.

Savala's sex offender status was also known to Eli Stewart, who serves with Chi Alpha at Texas A&M University and pastors Mountain Valley Fellowship in College Station, Texas. Eli

Stewart was involved in the same letter-writing campaign seeking leniency for Savala back in 2012.

Savala's sex offender status was also known to Daniel Young, who is the Chi Alpha missionary at the University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley. Young personally served as Savala's third-party custodian by court order when Savala was indicted in Alaska in 2012.

Attempts to address this issue with Chi Alpha Ministries' national office have been rebuffed. E. Scott Martin is the Senior National Director for Chi Alpha Ministries. Martin has been notified of Savala's involvement and has done nothing to take corrective action. Tim Barker is the District Superintendent for the Assemblies of God. [REDACTED] spoke directly with Mr. Barker in 2013 about the conviction, and the Assemblies of God denomination has taken no corrective action.

### **Demand**

This is a demand that you take immediate action on your campuses to address Chi Alpha's ongoing formal or informal relationships with Daniel Savala before more people get hurt. This is not a financial demand or a threat, but a plea to your various systems and universities to hold Chi Alpha to account for what has unfolded over the last two decades. This must be brought to an immediate end. If Chi Alpha's ongoing disregard for its students continues and requires expulsion of the organization from every single campus, so be it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

**SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Mitchell Little

cc: Chi Alpha Ministries  
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